

KPS CONSULTING
“Building an Access Bridge in Technology and Telecommunications”

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March 3, 2003

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Presentations in
CC Dockets 02-33, 95-20, 98-10

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 3, 2003, Paul Schroeder and Karen Peltz Strauss of the American Foundation for the Blind, Charlie Crawford of the American Council of the Blind, Claude Stout of Telecommunications for the Deaf, Inc., and Andy Imparato of the American Association of People with Disabilities met with Carol Matthey, Cathy Carpino, Brent Olson, Terri Natoli, and Gail Cohen of the Wireless Competition Bureau (WCB) and Harry Wingo of the Office of General Counsel for the purpose of discussing access to broadband services by people with disabilities. We discussed problems that people with disabilities have already encountered in trying to secure and use broadband services, the failure of the marketplace to address the needs of people with disabilities, and the importance of ensuring that individuals with disabilities have full access to broadband services. We also discussed legal theories by which the Commission would be able to ensure access in rules governing broadband services and equipment. These include application of the ancillary jurisdiction and universal service doctrines. Per the request of WCB, in the coming weeks, we will be forwarding an additional letter discussing the latter of these doctrines. A copy of the presentation that we made on March 3, 2003 is attached.

Sincerely,

/s/

Karen Peltz Strauss
Policy Consultant
American Foundation for the Blind

Attachment